

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above referenced application is requested. Claims 1-6 have been canceled. Claims 7-23 are in the case. Claim 7 has been amended into independent form and to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Claims 8 and 9 through 13 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 7. Claims 20 and 22 have been amended to be dependent on claim 13.

Claim Objections

Claim 23 was objected to because the phrase "potassium and cesium" was seen as "non-standard English grammar." Claim 23 has been amended to change the phrase to --potassium or cesium--, as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, "at least one of methylamine and dimethylamine" has been amended in claim 23 to read --at least one of methylamine or dimethyl amine--. Claims 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19 have also been amended to correct the same type of wording.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error by inserting the word --from-- before "180 °C".

It is believed that the claim objections have been overcome with these amendments and no new matter has been introduced.

35 USC 112, First Paragraph, Rejection

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification was not seen as being enabling for reacting in the vapor phase the universe of amino ether alcohols with the universe of amines to produce the universe of amino ether amines using a Cu/Zn catalyst.

Claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1-6 in another patent application. Cancellation of claim 1 makes this rejection moot.

35 USC 102 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 10-12, 19, 20, and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,151,581. The Examiner argued inter alia that US 4,151,581 teaches the reaction of an alcohol and an aminating agent to produce an amine using a trimetallic catalyst containing 20-90% Co, 8-72% Cu and 1-15% Fe, Zn, Zr, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 1-6 have been canceled, and the claims amended so that claims 10-12, 19, 20, and 22 are dependent directly or indirectly upon claim 7. It is believed that these amendments overcome the 102 rejection, since claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Amended claim 7 recites a contact pressure of 0 to 500 psig at a temperature of 120 to 300 °C for the reaction. US 4,151,581 teaches a minimum pressure of 1,000 psi; preferably 1,500 psi, at temperatures of 120 to 400 °C, which is well above the pressure needed in the method of this invention.

It is believed that the cancellation of claims 1-6, and amendments of claims 7, 10-12, 19, 20, and 22, overcome the 102 rejection based on US 4,153,581, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

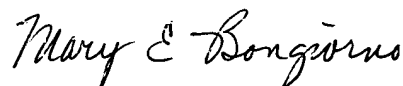
Claims 7-9, 13-18, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been rewritten into independent form and incorporates the limitations of claim 2. It is believed that this amendment meets the requirements of the Examiner. Claims 8, 10-13, 18, and 21 have been amended to be directly or indirectly dependent on claim 7. Claims 10-12, 20, and 22 have also been amended to be directly or indirectly dependent on claim 7.

It is believed that these amendments put the claims in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. Bongiorno
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 36,091

7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-8820